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QUERY CONTROL FORM				RTIS USE ONLY	
Application No.	10649395	Prepared by	CWC	Tracking Number	05962354
Examiner-GAU	Wu	Date	9-13-04	Week Date	6-07-04
	1713	No. of queries	-2-		IFW

2nd Request

JACKET

a. Serial No.	f. Foreign Priority	k. Print Claim(s)	p. PTO-1449
b. Applicant(s)	g. Disclaimer	l. Print Fig.	q. PTOL-85b
c. Continuing Data	h. Microfiche Appendix	m. Searched Column	r. Abstract
d. PCT	i. Title	n. PTO-270/328	s. Sheets/Figs
e. Domestic Priority	j. Claims Allowed	o. PTO-892	t. Other

SPECIFICATION	MESSAGE					
	1) A 35 U.S.C. 119(e)(1) foreign priority claim cannot be based on a U.S. application. Please make all necessary corrections to file wrapper and specification. See MPEP 1893.03(c) "Priority Claim Under 35 U.S.C. 120"					
	2) On PTO 1449 of 8-21-02 please provide complete date for Japanese Pat. 3-64384. MO/YR are necessary for publication. If unavailable, Please list through citation, see attached					
	Thank you CWC					
	initials					
	CLAIMS	RESPONSE				
initials						

<p style="text-align: right;">MPEP MAR 21 2002 INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT (Use Several Sheets if necessary)</p>	ATTY DOCKET NO.	SERIAL NO.	
	44598 A	10/049395	
	APPLICANT	RECEIVED APR 28 2002 1700	
	James W. McMichael et al.	GROUP	1713
FILING DATE	APR 28 2002 1700		
February 12, 2002			

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIAL	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUB-CLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
M	US 3,719,643	1/1971	Knight	260	87.3	
M	US 4,287,262	9/1981	Englehard et al.	428	461	
M	US 4,939,181	7/1990	Hasellier	521	81	
M	US 5,683,238	9/1997	Takahashi et al.	525	240	
M	US 6,184,297	2/2001	Takahashi et al.	525	240	

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

	DOCUMENT NUMBER	PUBLICATION DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUB-CLASS	TRANSLATION YES	NO
M	JP 3-64384	1997	Japan				
M	JP 5-214179	1993	Japan				
M	JP 6-201050	1994	Japan				
M	EP 342,750	11/1989	EPO				
M	EP 588,626	5/1994	EPO				

OTHER DISCLOSURES (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Place of Publication, Etc.)

Derwent Information 1976, answer 5 of 8
Derwent Information, 1980, answer 30 of 32
Derwent Information, 1989, answer 14 of 32
Derwent Information 1992, answer 3 of 8
Derwent Information 1999, answer 1 of 6
Derwent Information 2001, answer 1 of 3

EXAMINER	DATE CONSIDERED
<p style="text-align: center;">June 11, 2003</p> <p>*EXAMINER: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include a copy of this form with next communication to Applicant.</p>	

P.S.
10/15/04

FREE-FLOWING POLYMER COMPOSITION
This appln is a 371 of PCT/US00/22424 of 16/00
which is a con of 09/375-854 8/17/95 A-BN
The present invention pertains to a free-flowing polymer composition and process

therefor. More particularly, the present invention pertains to a free-flowing polymer composition comprising polymer and an anti-blocking agent and processes for producing such a composition.

Many polymers are often prepared by a polymerization of a mixture of monomers in, for example, a solution or slurry process. The polymerization product may then be recovered in a form suitable for subsequent handling and part manufacturing. This recovery operation produces materials in the form of particles, flakes or powders. Unfortunately, many such materials have a tendency to stick together, that is, block, agglomerate or cake, and/or adhere to processing equipment. Factors such as temperature, storage time, and/or compression often facilitate, contribute to, or exacerbate the aforementioned stickiness. Thus, the polymer materials are often not substantially free-flowing.

If the polymer particles are not free-flowing, then they present a few problems. One problem is that the particles may be difficult to package, ship, and incorporate into subsequent articles because the reduced flowability hinders the uniform distribution of said particles. Another problem stems from the tendency of the particles to stick to the manufacturing and processing equipment, for example, screens, dryers, meters, extruding equipment and other fabricating machinery. Thus, production is often hindered because the equipment must be cleaned periodically to remove the agglomerated particles.

One way in which the caking tendencies of polymers have been reduced is by blending finely divided silica or fumed silica with the polymer particles. Unfortunately, even though the caking tendency of the polymer particles may be reduced, the silica is a low bulk density solid and tends to make the working environment unpleasant due to silica dust.

In order to reduce dust associated with finely divided or fumed silica, U.S. Patent No. 5,366,645 suggests that a porous, amorphous silica be imbibed with a liquid oil and employed with polymers. Unfortunately, the porous, amorphous silicas required for such a composition are relatively expensive and difficult with which to work.

For the aforementioned reasons, it would be desirable to discover a new polymer particle composition which is substantially free flowing and relatively dust-free. It would further be desirable if such a composition employs readily available components that are not



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CONFIRMATION NO. 3836

SERIAL NUMBER 10/049,395	FILING OR 371(c) DATE 02/12/2002 RULE	CLASS 524	GROUP ART UNIT 1713	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. 44598A
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APPLICANTS

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** CONTINUING DATA *****

This application is a 371 of PCT/US00/22424 08/16/2000
which is a CON of 09/375,856 08/17/1999 ABN

** FOREIGN APPLICATIONS *****

Foreign Priority claimed	<input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no	STATE OR COUNTRY TX	SHEETS DRAWING 4	TOTAL CLAIMS 83	INDEPENDENT CLAIMS 6
35 USC 119 (a-d) conditions met	<input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no <input type="checkbox"/> Met after Allowance				

ADDRESS

22515

TITLE

FREE-FLOWING POLYMER COMPOSITION

FILING FEE RECEIVED 2276	FEES: Authority has been given in Paper No. _____ to charge/credit DEPOSIT ACCOUNT No. _____ for following:	<input type="checkbox"/> All Fees <input type="checkbox"/> 1.16 Fees (Filing) <input type="checkbox"/> 1.17 Fees (Processing Ext. of time) <input type="checkbox"/> 1.18 Fees (Issue) <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Credit
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